



Local Release

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The National Weather Service in Phoenix is pleased to recognize the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) as a StormReady Community. This community is the first Indian Community to gain this recognition in the Southwest U.S. and so it is quite an accomplishment. Officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service office in Phoenix, Ariz., will present the SRPMIC with two StormReady signs and a certificate tonight to honor the community's efforts to enhance its hazardous weather operations. The SRPMIC has a population of 12,000 and covers an area of 92 square miles to the east of the city of Phoenix.

The StormReady program gives communities the skills and education needed to survive severe weather - before and during the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen their local hazardous weather operations by ensuring that they have the tools needed to receive life saving National Weather Service warnings in the quickest time possible.

According to Ken Waters, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS office in Phoenix, StormReady is a great example of federal, state and local governments working together to prepare communities for severe weather and floods. Waters noted how the StormReady program has directly saved hundreds of lives across the country since the beginning of the program in 1999.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy.

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.